

The RECORD-UNION is the only paper on the coast outside of San Francisco, that receives the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world. Outside of San Francisco it has no competitor, in point of numbers, in its home and general circulation throughout the coast.

SAN FRANCISCO AGENCY.

L. P. FISHER is Sole Agent for this paper in San Francisco and vicinity. He is authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, and collect for the same. Rooms 21 and 22, Merchants' Exchange.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 122 1/2 for 100; 112 1/2 for 50; sterling, \$4 81/2 for 100; 101 1/2 for 50; silver, 106 1/2.

Silver in London, 49d; consols, 94 1/2; 5 per cent. United States bonds, extended, 105 1/2; 12 1/2; 4 1/2, 110 1/2.

In San Francisco Mexican dollars are quoted at 82 1/2 for 100 cents.

A dull and sloppy feeling pervaded the mining share market in San Francisco yesterday. There was a small decline in the middle of the week, and the weakness extended throughout the entire list, business being confined to small traders.

The departure of the Guards from England for Suakin took place yesterday.

An iron mine and furnace have been closed down in Rockledge county, Virginia, throwing 1,200 men out of employment.

Over 7,000 tickets were sold for the Dickens carnival in Boston Tuesday night.

A strike of coal miners is threatened in Mansfield valley, Pennsylvania.

The French residents of Shanghai have been placed under Russian protection.

The weather has greatly moderated in the East.

One ballot was taken in the Illinois Legislature yesterday for United States Senator.

Charles Drake wound up a spree in Los Angeles Tuesday night by taking a fatal dose of strychnine.

In a fire in Bismarck, N. D., yesterday morning destroyed the entire business portion of the town.

Fire near Cheyenne, Wyoming, loss, \$25,000.

Mrs. Mark Hopkins is said to have several millions in Government bonds loaned out in Wall street.

In attempting to serve writs of attachment at Marquette, Tex., a constable was killed and a deputy wounded.

A strange series of accidents at a funeral occurred Tuesday at Wesleyville, Pa.

The death of Captain Oliver Pitts, shipmaster and merchant, is announced from New York.

The United States Senate yesterday passed the anti-foreign contract labor bill by a vote of 25 to 18.

A bridge is to be built across the Willamette river between Portland and East Portland, Oreg.

The bill to extend authority to women has been rejected by the local House at Victoria, B. C.

The Senatorial deadlock in the Oregon Legislature remains unbroken, and the session closes to-morrow night.

The next session of the Oregon Legislature will be held at Oregon City June 15th.

The missing propeller Michigan is ice-bound in the lake twenty-three miles west of South Haven, Mich.

Hon. Morton C. Post is strongly recommended for the position of Governor of Wyoming Territory.

Three vessels were burned at Memphis yesterday, two of them steamers loaded with cotton.

The obsequies of the dead musician, Dr. Leopold Damrosch, took place at New York yesterday in the Metropolitan Opera House.

The United States Senate yesterday confirmed the nomination of Emory Speer as United States District Judge of the Southern District of Georgia.

The eighteenth annual encampment of the Department of California, G. A. R., convened in San Francisco yesterday.

It is reported from Rome that Cardinal Jacobini, papal secretary of state, has resigned.

A great anxiety prevails at the War office in London about Colonel Buller's force at Gubat.

The House Committee on Appropriations have agreed to recommend an appropriation in aid of the New Orleans Exposition.

Two loopholes stopped.

Two loopholes were discovered yesterday in the school text-book bill as it came from the Senate, and the Assembly promptly, wisely and unanimously, corrected the error and closed the holes, on the suggestion of Assemblyman Jordan, Chairman of the Educational Committee. The wonder is that the bill went through as it was framed, and that such serious errors escaped attention. In fact the bill had been amended quite to death. Our Legislature appears to have succeeded—immensely on the part of friends of the bill, we are sure—in legislating for other States, and thus set an example of broad State philanthropy that has no parallel. It made the bill read that after California has gone to all the expense of procuring the necessary MS., type, engravings and electrotypes, that any other State desiring should have the right to demand and have copies of the electrotypes shipped at the cost of their duplication and shipment. That is to say, we were to expense several thousand dollars, and then give the results to Nevada or Oregon, for instance. How easy it would have been for the book syndicate—the twenty houses composing it under agreement not to permit competition in school books, and the profits of which infamy we have at hand and ready for examination by whomsoever is concerned—to go into another State and work through a bill to ask and receive California's plates at a cost probably of two or three hundred dollars. How easy, by the same influences, for the publishers to get the "job" of printing from these plates for the recipient, and thus flood the country with books at a cost to them barely above the price of the paper, and probably not to exceed one-fourth of what books cost California.

As a consequence, the State could not sell a volume, and would keep her stock on hand, and the taxpayers would have to pocket the entire loss. No wonder the book influences became suddenly quiet when the bill went through with such a generous provision in it. The Assembly corrected the blunder, however, by striking out "the whole business." That is, we propose to produce our own and not to postulate with other States for a "cry from Macedonia" which we ourselves.

That, this was not all. Another rail-road was found in the bill, and the Assembly corrected that also yesterday. Section 2 of the bill directed the State Board of Education to have the necessary books compiled. But it was provided that "if competent authors shall compile any one or more works of the first order of excellence, and shall offer the same as a free gift to the people of the State, it shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to accept such gift, and to expend no money for the purpose of compiling works relating to the subjects treated in the books thus donated."

The "trouble" with this section may be thus exemplified. One of the syndicate houses having said, in other States, for some millions of copies of a book we desire, receives back its outlay and a large profit from such sales. It is then in a position to turn to California and say, "Here is a book you admit to be of first excellence. You want it. Very well, we will give it to you. Under the law you must take and use no other on this subject." The reader will see that, while the State must go to the

expense of printing the book, of making electrotypes for every page, of reproducing all the illustrations and all other cost of original reproduction, the giver, having no expenses such as above enumerated, can sell at the end of his enormous edition, the book in question at a price but little in advance of the cost of paper and binding, which would not be as in the other case, more than one-fourth the cost per volume to the State. And so, again, the State would have its stock of books on hand, as well as the large expense bill. The Assembly, however, set down upon this joke also, by amending the section quoted so that the generous donor to the dear people shall clinch his gift and testify to his sincerity in desiring to benefit the people, by accompanying his gift with a transfer of the copyright of the book for the territory of California, with the exclusive right to manufacture and sell the work within the State vested in the sovereign State of California. If the giver is honest, he cannot demur at giving his beneficent bill effect. If he is dishonest, and offers to give us something only that he may hereafter claim us, we do not desire to be the object of his solicitude. Of course the Senate will see that the palpable errors are corrected in the manner the Assembly suggests. It is unthinkable that anyone will venture to oppose its obviously wise amendments.

THE CROSS BILL AGAIN.

A protest comes to us from old hydraulic miners, who are now engaged in drift, ravine and other mining, against the passage of the Cross bill. It really appears to be a bill in the interest of a few large hydraulic mining corporations. It appears that the plans for such a scheme were put about six months ago, and that a desperate effort will be made to pass the bill. Such measure, fraught with so much of grave interest, should be hastily considered. Upon it there hinges, possibly, the integrity of the rivers and the occupancy of the bottom lands. It would appear to be destructive of the interests of the small miners of the creek, ravine, and drift, and to a large extent, the quartz mines. All the mining counties is a large number of creek, drift and ravine mines. Their aggregate industry is a most important total. It is rapidly augmenting, and promises to open up new sources of wealth to the State. These interests are to be mortgaged to the hydraulic miners, cross and delivered over to them. The bill invests those having appropriated water for mining purposes with power to form strong corporations, to select, condemn and occupy as dumps and debris reservoirs any ravines, water drains, creeks or gulches. Now nearly every ditch company is interested in or owns hydraulic mining ground. In most of the ravines and along creeks where hydraulic miners may desire to store debris, are small miners. The bill gives the water and hydraulic mining corporations power to select and condemn their own property. Their value cannot be accurately ascertained, and damages to be awarded will only be what will cover land value, notwithstanding that the prospective or mining value may be very great. In very many debris-charged ravines and creeks, miners are also seeking to work out the millions of gold in the detritus. They are also seeking to go down upon these places to the original placer deposits, great numbers of which, it is believed, have not been touched, and many of them have only been skimmed, because hydraulic mining flow has heretofore appropriated them and filled them out. On ravine sides are many miners working by comparatively harmless processes. Under the Cross bill, these men may be driven out, and their ground filled to their ruin. Practically all the water to be used for hydraulic or other mining has been appropriated, and hence the companies owning will possess the power, under this new bill, to shut off all the class of miners referred to, wherever a creek, river tributary, ravine, gulch or canyon is desired for a debris reservoir.

It is developing that the mining communities are by no means a unit in favor of the Cross bill. The great hydraulic and water companies favor it, but outside of these companies are opposing it for the reasons, in part, which have been mentioned. Officially, then, the bill puts it in the power of a few, to check or destroy the industry of the many, and put a stop to mineral development to a very great extent.

A FLAT DENIAL.

To those San Francisco journals that have spread no words to denounce the drainage claims as fraudulent, Nevada or Oregon, for instance. How easy it would have been for the book syndicate—the twenty houses composing it under agreement not to permit competition in school books, and the profits of which infamy we have at hand and ready for examination by whomsoever is concerned—to go into another State and work through a bill to ask and receive California's plates at a cost probably of two or three hundred dollars. How easy, by the same influences, for the publishers to get the "job" of printing from these plates for the recipient, and thus flood the country with books at a cost to them barely above the price of the paper, and probably not to exceed one-fourth of what books cost California.

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FROM FAR AND NEAR.

STRANGE SERIES OF ACCIDENTS AT A FUNERAL.

The Illinois Senatorship—Weather Reports—O'Donovan Rossa Again—Borneo Burned.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

DOMESTIC NEWS.

United States Senate.

WASHINGTON, February 18th.—At 11 o'clock the only Senator in the Chamber was Edmunds, who promptly at that hour, entered with the Chaplain. Edmunds, observing the situation, abstained from taking the chair, and he and the Chaplain took seats on the floor. After a few minutes' delay, only to find that no other Senator was present, the Chaplain, after a few minutes' prayer, this done the few Senators present indulged in a short session of silence, which was finally broken by Morrill, who moved a call of the Senate.

The call began with a prayer, and was followed by a reading of the minutes. The bill introduced with sixteen, that not being a quorum, the names of the absentees were called, and this brought ten more. But that being fifteen short of a quorum, further action was postponed.

Conquer required whether it was safe to proceed with the reading of the journal of yesterday.

The chair said no.

Conquer insisted that he was not an alumnus and had only inquired for information, and Hale asked that unanimous consent be given to dispense with the reading.

The chair declined to entertain the proposition, the call having shown the absence of a quorum.

After some further waiting, Mr. of New York entered and said, "Mr. President." The chair recognized the Senator from New York. Then a short of a quorum, remarked, "No." [Laughter.]

Gibson was similarly recognized, and after some further waiting, the chair declared his mind to be "No." [Laughter.]

At 11:30 the chair announced a quorum present. The journal was read and the morning business proceeded with.

Dawes from the Committee on Indian Affairs reported the original bill to enable the President to negotiate for the purchase from the Creek, Seminole and Cherokee tribes of the Indian lands lying in the so-called Oklahoma lands, in California.

The Senate went into executive session. In twenty minutes the session resumed.

Lapham continued his remarks on the bill.

Lapham's remarks were interrupted by the regular order—the anti-foreign contract labor bill.

Lapham offered an amendment, providing that the whole penalty recovered shall be paid into the United States Treasury, instead of being divided between the State and the party to whom the penalty is paid.

Chair then offered an amendment making it the duty of the United States District Attorney, of the proper district, to prosecute, at the expense of the United States, every case of violation of the Act. Agreed to—yeas 12, nays 15.

The bill then passed—yeas 50, nays 9.

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